

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 SIG-03
MMO-04 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PA-02 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 INRE-00 /096 R

DRAFTED BY AF/P BRUSSELL:PCM
APPROVED BY AF/P RHOLLIDAY
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O 182149Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY LISBON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USICA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY BANJUL
AMCONSUL BUKAVU
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION USNATO
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AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
AMEMBASSY PRAIA
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

UNCLAS STATE 127180

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING MAY 18, 1978

FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED EXCERPT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING. IF NECESSARY OFFICIAL VERSION WILL FOLLOW.

Q. WHAT IS THE U.S. ROLE IN THIS APPARENT INTERNATIONAL EVACUATION EFFORT ABOUT TO ENSUE?

A. LET ME SAY THAT I AM REALLY GOING TO HAVE TO STAY AT THE MOMENT WITH THE POSITION WHICH WE HAVE HELD TO DATE ON THIS WHOLE QUESTION OF THE SAFETY OF FOREIGN, AND ESPECIALLY AMERICAN, CITIZENS IN ZAIRE. AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE, WE DO NOT COMMENT ON CONTINGENCY
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PLANNING INVOLVING THE SAFETY OF AMERICAN CITIZENS. YOU CAN ASSUME, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH PLANNING IS DONE AS A MATTER OF COURSE WHENEVER AMERICANS ARE LOCATED IN A REMOTE AREA IN WHICH CONFLICT IS TAKING PLACE. I AM JUST GOING TO HAVE TO STAY RIGHT THERE. I DO HAVE, NOT ON THE MATTER OF CONTINGENCY PLANS, BUT I DO HAVE SOME FIGURES ABOUT AMERICAN NATIONALS WHO ARE IN KOLWEZI. THE NUMBER, TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, IS 14. THEY INCLUDE FOUR MORRIS-KNUDSEN EMPLOYEES, ONE GECAMINE EMPLOYEE, AND EIGHT MISSIONARIES, AND ONE TOURIST.

Q. DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THEIR CONDITION, THEIR WELL-BEING?

A. I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THEIR CONDITION EXCEPT THAT THEY ARE IN AN AREA WHERE HOSTILITIES ARE OCCURRING AND THAT WE ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THEM.

Q. THE BELGIAN AND FRENCH GOVERNMENTS HAVE BOTH SAID THAT THERE IS AN INTERNATIONAL EFFORT UNDER WAY IN WHICH AMERICAN LOGISTIC SUPPORT IS INVOLVED. ARE AMERICAN PLANES BEING USED?

A. I'M SORRY, I CAN'T -- EVERY GOVERNMENT IS PERMITTED TO SPEAK FOR ITSELF, AND AS FOR WHAT CONTINGENCY PLANS MAY BE BEING THOUGHT OF, I JUST AM NOT IN A POSITION TO GET INTO THAT, I'M SORRY.

Q. ON THIS OTHER QUESTION THAT CAME UP THE OTHER DAY, CAN YOU BE MORE EXPLICIT ON WHAT THE U.S. IS CONCERNED ABOUT REGARDING CONGRESSIONAL RESTRAINTS ON WHAT IT CAN DO IN AFRICA, AND IN PARTICULAR, DOES THE UNITED STATES NOW WANT TO END THE CLARK AMENDMENT WHICH PROHIBITS COVERT ACTIONS IN ANGOLA?

A. I'M NOT REALLY IN A POSITION TO GIVE YOU A FINAL JUDGMENT ON THIS, BUT THE OFFICE OF THE LEGAL ADVISER
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HAS BEEN ASKED TO IDENTIFY VARIOUS STATUTORY RESTRICTIONS ON UNITED STATES FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES. THAT STUDY, IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING, IS STILL UNDER WAY. PARTICULAR PROVISIONS THAT, UNDOUBTEDLY, WOULD BE AMONG THOSE IDENTIFIED BY THE LEGAL ADVISER'S OFFICE WOULD INCLUDE RESTRICTIONS WITH REGARD TO ANGOLA, I.E. THE CLARK AMENDMENT, AND RESTRICTIONS WITH REGARD TO COVERT OPERATIONS, SOMETHING WHICH IS KNOWN AS THE HUGHES-RYAN AMENDMENT.

Q. THE ATTENTION HAS STILL BEEN FOCUSED IN THE PAST FEW DAYS ON THE QUESTION OF THE AMERICANS THERE AND THEIR EVACUATION; BUT YOU HAVE HAD SEVERAL DAYS NOW TO CONSIDER WHAT REALLY THE AMERICAN POLICY IS TOWARD ZAIRE, HOW COMMITTED IS THE UNITED STATES TOWARDS THE SURVIVAL OF THE MOBUTU REGIME. HAVE YOUR IDEAS EVOLVED THERE A LITTLE BIT? CAN YOU SAY SOME MORE?

A. NO. I'M REALLY NO FURTHER ON THAT THAN HODDING WAS YESTERDAY OR THE DAY BEFORE. WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ZAIRE, AND I REALLY HAVE NOTHING NEW FOR YOU ON AID, JUST NOT VERY MUCH MORE UP-TO-DATE ON THAT.

BELGIAN PLANES CARRYING PARATROOPERS WHICH LEFT EUROPE FLYING SOUTH THIS MORNING?

A. I HAVE NO COMMENT.

Q. THAT'S NOT A CONTINGENCY PLAN; IT'S SOMETHING THAT, SUPPOSEDLY, IS HAPPENING.

A. I HAVE NO COMMENT.
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Q. YOU HAVE USED THE VERB "COMMITTED" SEVERAL TIMES HERE. WHAT DOES IT MEAN WHEN YOU SAY YOU'RE COMMITTED TO THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ZAIRE AND OF SHABA PROVINCE?

A. WE ARE IN FAVOR OF IT.

Q. THAT'S A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER. I MEAN "COMMITTED" WOULD SUGGEST THAT IF SHABA PROVINCE WERE TO BREAK AWAY, AS IT HAS DONE IN THE PAST, THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD USE ITS MUSCLE TO ASSURE THAT IT DOES NOT. YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO SUGGEST THAT, ARE YOU?

A. THERE IS NOTHING NEW ABOUT WHAT I'M SAYING HERE. I'M NOT TRYING TO PROJECT INTO THE FUTURE WHAT ACTIONS THE GOVERNMENT MAY OR MAY NOT TAKE WITH REGARD TO THIS SITUATION.

Q. YOU HAVE NOW SAID THAT TWO OF THE RESTRAINTS THAT HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED, BOTH DEALING WITH COVERT ACTIVITY, ONE A RATHER BROAD ONE, ONE DEALING WITH ANGOLA. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF ALL THIS? THERE IS A LOT OF CONCERN IN THIS COUNTRY ABOUT CIA ACTIVITY. THIS ADMINISTRATION, I THINK, CAME INTO OFFICE ON A KIND OF SIMON-PURE ETHIC ON THIS, AND YOU'VE NOW RAISED THIS AS IF IT'S A BIG HANDICAP TO YOU NOW. IS THIS BECAUSE THE ADMINISTRATION IS UNHAPPY WITH THESE RESTRAINTS? IT'S THE ONLY LOGICAL IMPLICATION TO BE DRAWN?

A: WHAT WE WANT TO DO AND THE PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY, IN MY UNDERSTANDING, IS TO IDENTIFY WHAT RESTRICTIONS THERE ARE AND TO WORK WITH THE CONGRESS TO SEE WHETHER THEY MAKE SENSE.

Q: THE ONLY ONES YOU'VE IDENTIFIED ARE NOT FOREIGN AID, UNCLASSIFIED

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AS SUCH; IT'S REALLY CIA MONEY.

A: YES.

Q: WHY ARE YOU RAISING THIS FLAG HERE? IS THIS TO SCARE THE RUSSIANS OR SOMETHING? WHOSE IDEA WAS THIS, THE SECRETARY OF STATE?

A: THE FIRST I SAW OF IT, WAS WHAT CONGRESSMAN RHODES SAID AFTER HE HAD HAD A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT. I THINK IT IS A REVIEW, YOU KNOW, OF WHAT WE ARE AND ARE NOT ABLE TO DO ABROAD IN TERMS OF TRYING TO HELP OUR FRIENDS. I'M NOT SUGGESTING THAT THE TWO AMENDMENTS WHICH I CITED TO YOU ARE THE ONLY RESTRICTIONS WHICH MAY BE UNDER REVIEW, OR MAY HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED, BUT I THINK THE PURPOSE IS AS I HAVE EXPLAINED IT.

Q: BUT BY CITING THOSE TWO SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS YOU SUGGEST, OR SEEM TO INFER, THAT THE REASON YOU WANT TO

LOOK AT THEM AND TALK WITH THE CONGRESS ABOUT THEM IS
BECAUSE YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING UNDERCOVER.

A: I'M NOT ABLE TO DRAW THAT SPECIFIC INFERENCE FOR
YOU.

Q: YOU HAVE STATED THAT THERE ARE NO CUBAN TROOPS THAT
YOU KNOW OF IN ZAIRE, IS THAT CORRECT?

A: WE HAVE STATED THAT WE ARE UNABLE TO CONFIRM THE
PRESENCE OF CUBAN TROOPS IN ZAIRE, THAT IS CORRECT.

Q: YOU HAVE ALSO STATED THAT THE AMERICAN POLICY IS THAT
NO FOREIGN ARMIES SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN AFRICAN CONFLICTS.
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A: NO. WE HAVE SAID THAT AFRICAN PROBLEMS SHOULD BE
SOLVED BY THE AFRICANS.

Q: O.K. WE HAVE HERE A SITUATION WHERE IN THE SHABA
PROVINCE, THE INDIGENOUS POPULATION DECIDES TO DO SOMETHING
ABOUT THE SITUATION IN THEIR COUNTRY. WHO ARE YOU TO TELL
THEM HOW THEY SHOULD CONDUCT THIS OPERATION OR THIS DECISION
THEY HAVE MADE? SINCE THERE ARE NO OTHER FOREIGN
TROOPS THERE, WHY DO YOU TAKE SUCH A STAND AND TRY TO MAKE
DECISIONS FOR THE ZAIREANS AND THE KATANGANS.

A: WE ARE NOT TRYING TO MAKE DECISIONS FOR THE ZAIREANS
AND THE KATANGANS. WE ARE SAYING THAT WE SUPPORT THE
CONCEPT OF THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ZAIRE AND OTHER
AFRICAN NATIONS, AND THAT IS A CONCEPT WHICH IS SUPPORTED
BY THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY ITSELF. IT IS NOT
SOME EARTH-SHAKING, DICTATORIAL FIAT FROM WASHINGTON,
D.C.

Q: DO YOU KNOW WHETHER THE TROOPS FROM THE CENTRAL
GOVERNMENT HAVE RECAPTURED THE AIRPORT AT KOLWEZI?

A: I CANNOT CONFIRM THAT FOR YOU, NOT AS OF THE LATEST
INFORMATION I HAVE.

Q: HAVE THE ZAIREANS ASKED FOR ANY MORE SPECIFIC AID
AND IS ANYTHING ELSE UNDER CONSIDERATION?

A: NOT SINCE YESTERDAY, TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Q: THERE WERE REPORTS THAT THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT HAS
OFFERED LUSAKA AS A BASE FOR AN AIRLIFT. WAS IT DISCUSSED
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YESTERDAY?

A: I DON'T KNOW. I'M NOT IN A POSITION TO HELP YOU ON THAT.

Q: WERE THERE COURSES OF ACTION THAT THE ADMINISTRATION CONSIDERED AND MIGHT HAVE LIKED TO HAVE FOLLOWED HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR LEGAL RESTRAINTS THAT THEY ARE UNDER, IN REGARD TO THIS SITUATION?

A: I CAN'T COMMENT ON VARIOUS OPTIONS WHICH MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE GOVERNMENT.

Q: TOM, DOES THE ADMINISTRATION FEEL IT WOULD BE IN A BETTER POSITION IF THERE WERE COVERT CIA OPERATIONS IN ZAIRE AT THIS TIME?

A: I DON'T COMMENT ON THE INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.

Q: THE REASON I'M ASKING YOU IF THE ZAIRE SITUATION PROMPTED THIS STUDY, AND THE STUDY SEEMS TO CENTER ON RESTRICTIONS ON COVERT CIA OPERATIONS, IT JUST FOLLOWS THAT THIS IS WHAT THEY HAD IN MIND.

A: I REALLY CAN'T HELP YOU ON THAT. I'M SORRY.

Q: IS THE ADMINISTRATION CONCERNED OR ATTEMPTING TO FIND OUT HOW THIS WHOLE THING GOT STARTED IN SHABA, IF IT WAS INCITED OR INSTIGATED BY ANY OUTSIDE FORCE? ARE YOU TRYING TO COME TO A DETERMINATION ON THAT?

A: OBVIOUSLY, WE ARE STUDYING THE SITUATION CLOSELY, AND THE SITUATION INCLUDES THE HISTORY OF THE SITUATION AND UNCLASSIFIED

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HOW IT STARTED.

Q: HAS THERE BEEN ANY INDICATION THAT POSSIBLY FORCES IN BRUSSELS OR LONDON --

A: NO, I HAVE NO INFORMATION ON THAT.

Q: TOM, THERE WERE TWO MEETINGS IN EUROPE, ONE IN NATO HEADQUARTERS AND ANOTHER ONE SOMEWHERE ELSE, NOT IN BRUSSELS. COULD YOU TELL US WHERE IT TOOK PLACE?

A: NO. I'M SORRY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 sep 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, PRESS CONFERENCES, EVACUATION PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE127180
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AF/P BRUSSELL:PCM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D780210-0397
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197805112/baaaeyri.tel
Line Count: 327
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f9793895-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2540180
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING MAY 18, 1978
TAGS: SOPN, US, CG
To: KINSHASA LUBUMBASHI MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f9793895-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014